# Regulation Concepts: Class 1 Permit Modification Procedures Permit by Rule for Treatment for Aqueous Wastes Containing Cyanides

## Project Description

**DTSC Reference Number: R-1996-48**

This rulemaking will establish a simple and environmentally protective option for businesses using cyanides to gain authorization to treat their cyanide containing wastewaters. Health and Safety Code section 25201 requires all persons treating hazardous waste to obtain authorization for that treatment from DTSC. Existing law would supply that authorization for businesses treating cyanide-containing wastes in the form of a standardized hazardous waste facility permit. DTSC determined that treatment of wastes addressed by this rulemaking is more appropriately authorized under a simpler permit by rule. This regulation would create new permit by rule waste stream and treatment process combinations for destroying cyanides prior to using the existing permit by rule authorization to treat the waste to non-hazardous levels for sewer disposal. This grant of authorization would apply only to businesses treating their own cyanide-containing wastes on the site where they were generated.

The regulations would authorize the following treatment activities:

- Treatment of dilute aqueous wastewaters generated by rinsing work pieces and fixtures in cyanide process solutions. The regulations will allow cyanide destruction by five commonly used and well understood methods. After cyanide destruction, the existing permit by rule authorization would allow further treatment to render the wastewaters suitable for sewer disposal.

- Electrowinning of metals from concentrated waste process solutions prior to offsite treatment and disposal. This process, identical to the original electroplating process that is the principal business of the facility, is generally used by precious metals platers to recover gold and silver from waste plating solutions prior to offsite treatment and disposal.

- Treatment of aqueous wastewaters generated by rinsing of pumps, hoses, and other transfer equipment used to transfer cyanide solutions.

- Treatment of ion-exchange regenerate at facilities that have achieved zero-discharge status.